

March 13, 2022

Judiciary Committee
Public Hearing
c/o Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Ave
Hartford, CT 06160

Re: Written testimony to the Judiciary Committee public hearing held March 14th, 2022

Dear Public Hearing Judiciary Committee,

I am drafting this testimony in response to the proposed gun control bill number 16. Below is an itemized response stating my position on the bill on an individual basis. I ask that the committee review the written testimony below and take the facts and positions into consideration prior to approving or rejecting the proposed legislation.

As a lifelong Connecticut resident AND believer in the democratic process this country was built on, I feel it is important to find common ground gun laws that address the true origin of the threats without impacting the individual liberties of the law-abiding citizenry. When viewed objectively I find that several of the proposed bills fall short of the true spirit of their goals. Similarly, I find that several existing laws have the potential to cause harm due to their hinderance of self-reliant defense of person and property.

I **OPPOSE** H.B. No. 5416 – AN ACT CONCERNING BULK PURCHASES OF PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS.

Unauthorized purchase of firearms “Straw purchase” is what I believe to be at the core of this bill. The “spirit” of H.B 5416 is to stem the flow of illegal handguns and revolvers into the hands of those who are otherwise prohibited from owning them. While unauthorized firearm possession is the leading cause of juvenile weapons convictions, limiting authorized buyers from purchasing more than (1) pistol or revolver in a (30) day period will have an extremely limited impact on these criminal acts. In fact, this proposed legislation would obstruct law abiding Connecticut residents from legally transacting bulk firearms transfers under extenuating circumstances like bequeathed collections transferred to an individual or liquidating firearms on short notice when moving from Connecticut. Additionally, Majority of the pistols and revolvers recovered in Connecticut from states with limited gun control laws. According to the ATF, in 2020, Connecticut had an average Time-to-Crime 10.22 years involving firearm related crimes. According to the ATF, in 2020, the average age of possessors of firearms in Connecticut in 35 years old.

I **OPPOSE** S.B. No. 16 AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME.

I SUPPORT S.B. No. 388 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.

I SUPPORT H.B. No. 5412 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A RELIGIOUS HOUSE OF WORSHIP.

I SUPPORT H.B. No. 5415 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES.

Thank you for taking this written testimony into consideration.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JD' with a stylized flourish.

James Dearth
Westport, CT